THE BELIEVERS COMPANION

Recommended to the

CONGREGATIONS in LONDON:

BY THE

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COVENANT OF GRACE.

A PROMISE is a present word for a future blessing; and a Covenant is an engagement ratified and confirmed with some peculiar solemnity.

THE COVENANT OF GRACE.

IS a free and firm obligation, in which the blessed God makes over himself, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and all that he has and is, as the God of nature, providence, grace, and Glory to all believers in Christ; who is the only *Way* into this Covenant, and the *Truth* and *Life* of it. Isa. xlii. 6. John xiv. 6.

THE LANGUAGE OF THIS COVENANT is, *I will be a God to thee, and to thy seed after thee.* Gen. xvii. 7. Jer. xxxii. 38, 39. Heb. viii. 10.

AS THOUGH HE HAD SAID;

To-day I settle, and will every day bestow myself upon thee. My nature, my abilities, my works are all thine, in the comfort and advantage of them. Yea all that thou canst expect or desire from a God, believe it thine.

My son, my Spirit, my love, my comforts, my holiness, my happiness, and all my perfections are yours.

They are not yours by title, and mine in profession; but I will make them effectual for your happiness in time and eternity; For

1. I will freely pardon thy sins, and pass by thy daily transgressions, Micah vii. 18. Rom. viii. 1. Heb. viii. 12.

My

My very being, my nature as God ſtands bound to make this good unto thee. Exod. vi. 3. Heb. vi. 13—18.

2. I will renew and ſanctify thy nature. My holineſs ſhall make you holy; my truth, righteouſneſs, and mercy, ſhall make you true, righteous, and merciful. To accompliſh this.

I will give thee a heart to know the Lord, Jer. xxiv. 7.
————one heart. Ezek. xi, 19.
————a new heart and a new ſpirit;
I will take away the ſtony heart, and give thee an heart of fleſh. Ezek. xxxvi. 26.
I will circumciſe thy heart to love the Lord thy God. Deut. xxx. 6.
I will put my fear in thy heart, and thou ſhalt not depart from me. Jer. xxxii. 39, 40.
I will put my ſpirit within you, and cauſe you, to walk in my ſtatutes, and keep my Judgement, and do them. Ezek. xxxvi. 27; yea
From all your filthneſs and from all your idols will I cleanſe you, Ver. 25.
For I will make all my goodneſs to paſs before you, on earth and in heaven Exod. xxxiii. 19.

3. I will do every thing elſe that is needful for thee, every thing that is deſirable; yea every good thing which thy nature is capable of.

My Power is infinite, it is thy defence.
My wiſdom is unſearchable, it ſhall look out for the proper time and way to do the good.
My mercies are large, deep and durable, they are thine.
My truth ſhall be thy ſhield and buckler.
I will viſit, commune, and dwell with thee.

More Particularly,

I will be light to thy darkneſs. Prov. iii. 6. Iſa. xlii. 16.
———— Wiſdom to thy folly. Iſa. xxx. 21. Jam. i. 5.
———— Strength to thy weakneſs. Nehem. viii. 10. Iſa xl. 26, &c.
———— Health to thy ſickneſs, Pſal. ciii. 3; and
———— Plenty to thy wants, Iſa. xxxiii. 16. 1 Tim. iv. 8.
I will bleſs thy bread and thy water. Exod. xxiii. 25.

I will pity thee under all thy miseries. Psal. ciii. 13.
I will be with thee in trouble. Isa. xliii. 2.
I will deliver thee and honour thee. Psal. xci. 15.

All Things are yours, 1 Cor. iii 21.

My Providences shall work together for thy good. Rom. viii. 28.
My Angels shall minister unto thee. Psal. xxxiv. 7. Heb. i. 14.
My Ordinances shall do thy soul good. Psal. cxxxii. 15. Rev. ii. 1.
As the God of all grace and the Father of glory, I will give thee grace and glory. Psal. lxxxiv. 11.
I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Heb. xiii. 5.
I will rejoice over thee to do thee good. Jer. xxxii. 40, 41.
I will be thy God and thy guide until death, and for ever. Psal. xlviii. 14.
I will be thy exceeding great reward. Gen. xv. 1.

Happy is that people whose God is the Lord! Psal. cxliv. 15.——Oh! *seek his face evermore.* Psal. cv. 4.——And, *Take heed least there be in you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.* Heb. iii. 12.——For *how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?* Heb. ii. 3.

USEFUL QUESTIONS

BY THE

Rev. Mr. JOSEPH ALLEINE,

(Who was born at *Devizes*, *A. D.* 1633; became Aſſiſtant to the Rev. Mr. GEORGE NEWTON, in St. MARY MAGDALEN's Church, *Taunton*, in 1655; and died at BATH. *Nov.* 7, 1768.)

PSALM iv. 4 *Commune with your own heart upon your bed.*

Every Evening before you ſleep (unleſs you find ſome other time more for your advantage in this work) withdraw yourſelf from the world; and having ſet your heart in the preſence of the LORD, charge it before GOD to anſwer theſe Demands.

Concerning your Duties.

Q. 1. *DID not God find Me on my bed, when he looketh for me on my knees?* Job i. 5. Pſal. v. 3. Mark i, 35.

Q. 2. *Have not I prayed to no purpoſe, or ſuffered wandering thoughts to eat out my duties?* Iſa. xxix. 13. Jer. xii. 2. Mat. xv. 8, 9.

Q. 3. *Have not I neglected, or been very ſuperficial in reading God's holy word?* Deut. xvii. 19. Joſh. i. 7, 8.

Q. 4. *Have I digeſted the ſermon I heard laſt? have I thought it over, and prayed it over?* Pſal. i. 2. and cxix. 11, 97. Luke ii. 19, 51.

Q. 5. *Was there not more of cuſtom and faſhion in my family duties, than of conſcience?* Pſal. ci. 2. Jer. xxx. 21.

Q. 6. *Wherein have I denied myſelf this day for God?* Luke ix. 23.

Q. 7. *Have I redeemed my time from too long or needleſs viſits, idle imaginations, fruitleſs diſcourſe, unneceſſary*

neceſſary ſleep, and from more than needful care about my worldly affairs? Eph. v. 16. Col. iv. 5.

Q. 8. *Have I done any thing more than ordinary for the church of God, in an extraordinary time?* Judg. v. 23. Iſa. lxii. 6. 1 Cor. xii. 4—31. 2 Cor. xi. 28.

Q. 9. *Have I taken care what company I kept?* Prov. xiii. 20. Pſal. cxix. 63.

Q. 10. *Have not I neglected, or done ſomething againſt the duties of my relations, as a maſter, ſervant, huſband, wife, parent, child, &c.* Eph. v. 22. to chap. vi. 9. Col. iii. 18. to chap. iv. 2.

About your Sins.

Q. 1. *Doth not ſin ſit light?* Pſal. xxxviii. 4. Rom. vii. 24.

Q. 2. *Am I a mourner for the ſins of the land?* Ezek. ix. 4. Jer. ix. 1, 2, 3.

Q. 3. *Do I live in nothing that I know, or fear to be a ſin?* Pſal, cxix. 101, 104. 1 Theſſ. v. 22. Jam. ii. 10.

Of your Heart.

Q. 1. *Have I been much in holy ejaculations?* Nehem. ii. 4, 5.

Q. 2. *Hath not God been out of mind? Heaven out of ſight?* Pſal. xvi. 8. Jer. ii. 32. Phil. iii. 3. 20.

Q. 3. *Have I been often looking into my own heart, and made conſcience of vain thoughts?* Prov. iii. 21—24. Pſal cxix. 113.

Q. 4. *Have not I given way to the workings of pride, paſſion, or luſt?* 2 Chron. xxxii. 26. Matt. v. 28. Jam. iv. 1—6.

Of your Tongue.

Q. 1. *Have I bridled my tongue, and forced it in?* Jam. i. 26 and iii. 2, 3, 4. Pſal. xxxix. 1.

Q. 2. *Have I ſpoke evil of no man, without or beyond neceſſity and a wiſe deſign?* Tit. iii. 2. Jam. iv. 11.

Q. 3. *Hath the law of the Lord been in my mouth, as I ſat in my houſe, went by the way, was lying down and riſing up?* Deut. vi. 6, 7.

Q. 4. *Have I come into no company where I have not dropped ſomething of God, to leave ſome good ſavour behind?*

behind? Or has my ſpeech been with grace, when it could not be of grace? Epheſ. iv. 29. Col. iv. 6.

Reſpecting your Table.

Q. 1. *Did I ſit down with any higher end than a beaſt, merely to pleaſe my appetite? Did I eat and drink for the glory of God?* 1 Cor. x. 31.

Q. 2. *Was not my appetite too hard for me?* Jude xii. 2 Pet. i. 6.

Q. 3. *Did not I ariſe from the table without dropping any thing for God there when I had an opportunity of doing it?* Luke vii. 36, &c. and xiv. 1. John vi.

Q. 4. *Did not I mock God when I pretended to aſk a bleſſing, or return thanks?* Acts xxvii. 35. Matt. xv. 36. Col. iii. 17, 23.

About your Calling.

Q. 1. *Have I been diligent in the duties of my calling?* Eccleſ. ix. 1 Cor. vii. 17, 20, 24.

Q. 2. *Have I defrauded no man,* Exod. xx. 15. Matt. vii. 12.

Q. 3. *Have I dropped no lye in my ſhop or buſineſs this day?* Prov. xxi. 6. Epheſ. iv. 25.

Q. 4. *Did not I raſhly make, or falſely break ſome promiſe?* Joſh. ix. 6, 14. Pſal. xv. 4. and cvi. 33.

Directions for the Morning.

D. 1. If you have omitted the weighimg of theſe queſtions in the evening, be ſure you do it now,

D. 2. Aſk yourſelf, *What ſin have I committed? what duty have I omitted? againſt which of theſe rules have I offended in the paſt day?* and renew your repentance, and double your watch.

D. 3. Examine, *Whether God was laſt in your thoughts when you went to ſleep, and firſt when you awake.*

D. 4. Enquire *Whether your care of your heart and ways increaſes, or abates and grows leſs.*

D. 5. Impoſe it as a taſk upon yourſelf to meditate frequently upon the preſent fraine of your heart, upon the ſcripture laſt read or heard, or upon ſome other divine theme, till this work becomes as your *meat and drink.*

D. 6.

D. 6. Set your ends right for all that day.

D. 7. Set your watch eſpecially againſt thoſe ſins and temptations, to which you are moſt likely to be expoſed that day; and *pray always.*

OBSERVATIONS.

1. If morality attending upon divine ordinances, was all that God required of Us, ſelf-examination might be needleſs (and it is accordingly neglected by moſt profeſſors;) but religion is heart-work: and as *the heart is deceitful above all things*, and eſpecially ſo with reſpect to the duties we owe to God: therefore,

2. If you never examine yourſelf, you are certainly *dead in treſpaſſes and ſins*; and *the wrath of God abides upon you.* Prov. xxx. 12. Gal. vi. 3, 4. 1 John i. 6. We muſt *judge ourſelves* now, or be hereafter *condemned with the world.* 1 Cor. xi. 31, 32.

3. He that examines himſelf, and yet goes on in any allowed way of ſin, will ſoon grow weary of this work; and is never likely to know himſelf, till he comes to hell.

4. When you have examined and diſcovered your ſins, remember that the covenant of works, and your own righteouſneſs which is of the law, however exact it may be, can neither procure you a pardon, nor furniſh you with any wiſdom, ſtrength or reſolution for ſubduing their power. Rom. iv. Gal. iii. But

5. *What the law could not do in that it was weak through the fleſh, God ſending his own Son in the likeneſs of ſinful fleſh* has effected. The blood of Chriſt has ſufficient virtue to cleanſe you from all ſin; his interceſſion ſhall ſave; and the omnipreſent JESUS ſtands at your right hand, ready to give his Holy Spirit to every one who deſires immediately to return to God by him, and to be comforted to his image. Matt. i. 21. Rom. viii. 3. 14. 17, 29. 1 John i. 7. and ii. 1, 2. Therefore

6. Come to him; for there is no relief for you but in the covenant deſcribed above—Salvation belongeth to the Lord.

TAUNTON,
Jan. 1, 1774.

T. R.

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